ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Systems and methods for recording a channel included in programming content without degrading or lessening the quality of the channel. Programming content is received at a set top box where a tuner is used to tune a group of channels included in the programming content. A transport is used to demultiplex the group of channels such that the channel to be recorded is produced. Instead of being decoded, the channel is directed to a storage medium where it is recorded in a digital form. The channel is not degraded because it has not been converted to an analog equivalent and re-encoded. The channel is stored as it was received by the tuner. Because the tuner may be used to record a channel, the set top box may either display the channel being recorded by simultaneously decoding the channel or the set top box has the option of retrieving a previously recorded channel that is subsequently decoded and displayed to a user.

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